

Message Text

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1. FROM OVERALL POLITICAL STANDPOINT, TIMING OF PROPOSED COMMUNICATIONS BUILD- UP IS POTENTIALLY MOST COMPLICATING FACTOR. AS NOW PLANNED, MOVE MIGHT WELL BEGIN ABOUT TIME WE ARE BEGINNING SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOS FOR REVISION OR EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. REQUEST BY US WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS WOULD TO SOME EXTENT BE SEEN BY SPANISH AS PRESUMPTION ON OUR PART THAT AGREEMENT WILL DEFINITELY CONTINUE BEYOND 1976. THIS APPARENT PRESUMPTION, PLUS SPANISH AWARENESS THAT WE ARE LOSING MOROCCAN COMMUNICATIONS ALTERNATIVE, WOULD PROBABLY BOTH STIFFEN SPANISH BARGAINING POSITION IN OVERALL NEGOTIATIONS AND RAISE THEIR IMMEDIATE PRICE FOR PARTICULAR CONCESSION OF FACILITIES AT ROTA AND MORON. IF MOROCCAN EVENTS NECESSITATE REOPENING OF GUARDAMAR, PRICE WOULD OF COURSE RISE FURTHER. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE URGENCY OF SHORT RUN MILITARY NEEDS, BELIEVE OVERALL
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PAGE 02 MADRID 01327 141710 Z

MILITARY INTERESTS IN WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN WOULD BE BETTER SERVED IF WE COULD BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPANISH WITHOUT ADDED DUE BILLS OR COMPLICATIONS.

2. WE CAN OF COURSE ARGUE THAT WHAT WE SEEK IS A RESTORATION OF AUTHORIZED FACILITIES RATHER THAN ADDITION. PERSUASIVENESS OF THIS POSITION WILL DEPEND ON WHAT "REACTIVATION" AND "MINOR REFURBISHMENT" REALLY WILL MEAN. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT RECENT CHANGES IN COMMUNICATIONS FUNCTIONS NOT PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED HERE, MIGHT NECESSITATE ENOUGH ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT, AND PERSONNEL FOR SPANISH TO CONSIDER IT "SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE" RATHER THAN "REACTIVATION".

3. IF GOS THEN INSISTS ON JOINT COMMITTEE CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 33 (C), WHICH IS PROBABLE, ASSUME THEY WILL ASK US TO GIVE "STRATEGIC RATIONALE" FOR MOVE, CONSISTING OF (1) UP-TO-DATE EXPLANATION OF ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF ADDITIONAL SPANISH-BASED COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND HOW THEY FIT INTO OVERALL US DEFENSE POSTURE IN MEDITERRANEAN, AND (2) SOME INDICATION WHY IS NECESSARY TO WITHDRAW FACILITIES FROM MOROCCO.

4. REGARDING WITHDRAWAL, SPANISH MILITARY AND, TO SOME EXTENT, FOREIGN MINISTRY INCREASINGLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE STABILITY OF MOROCCO AND CONCERNED OVER PROSPECTS THAT IT MAY BECOME RADICAL, ANTI-WESTERN REGIME INTENT ON THREATENING SPANISH INTERESTS. GOS, PARTICULARLY MILITARY, HAS PRESSED US TO TAKE GREATER COGNIZANCE OF THIS THREAT IN DEFENSE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING SPAIN. KNOWLEDGE THAT US FEELING PRESSURE TO WITHDRAW FROM MOROCCO LIKELY TO HEIGHTEN GOS ALARM AND STIMULATE GREATER PRESSURES ON US TO IDENTIFY MORE CLOSELY WESTERN DEFENSE INTERESTS IN GENERAL AREA WITH SPANISH INTERESTS IN NORTH AFRICA. CAN NOT RULE OUT THAT SPANISH MAY EXPECT GREATER US SYMPATHY FOR SPAIN'S NORTH AFRICAN CONCERNS IN RETURN FOR SPANISH ACQUIESCENCE IN TRANSFERRING FACILITIES FROM MOROCCO.

5. FINALLY, IF SPANISH AGREE TO MOVE, WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON OTHER TYPES OF QUID THEY MAY SEEK. FROM PAST EXPERIENCE, EXPECT SPANISH NAVY, AND POSSIBLY A
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PAGE 03 MADRID 01327 141710 Z

SPANISH AIR FORCE AND HIGH GENERAL STAFF, WOULD SEEK IMMEDIATE

TECHNICAL BENEFITS OF COMMUNICATION BUILD- UP, SUCH AS UTILIZATION OF NEW FACILITIES FOR PURELY SPANISH NEEDS, TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE.

6. IN SUM, THOUGH GOS STILL BASICALLY AMENABLE TO US MILITARY PRESENCE IN SPAIN, AND WILLING CONSIDER EXPANSION OF PARTICULAR ACTIVITIES AS REQUIRED, EACH NEW REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL OR REVAMPED FACILITIES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO CLOSE SCRUTINY. GOS WILL EXPECT TO BE COMPENSATED BY US EACH TIME IT ACQUIESCES IN A US PROPOSAL. IF US NAVY HAS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO COMMUNICATION FACILITIES NEEDED IN SPIN, WE MAY AS WELL ASK SPANISH NOW FOR WHAT WE WANT, AND BE PREPARED TO PAY FOR IT LATER.
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